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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 12322

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EO 11652: NA
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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

REF: BEIRUT 12105 (NOTAL)

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECRETARY'S MOSCOW TRIP HAVING ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR PRESS, COVERAGE OF DIPLOMATIC MOVES TODAY RUNS POOR FOURTH TO (A) VARIOUS ASPECTS OF US AID TO ISRAEL (ESPECIALLY 2.2 BIL DOLLAR GRANT AID REQ) ON WHICH MOST LEFTIST PAPERS CARRY DISTORTIONS: PRO-COMMANDO AL-MUHARRIR HEADLINES: "AMERICA CALLS UP RESERVE PILOTS TO HELP ISRAEL"; PRO-C COMMANDO AL-LIWA BANNERS: "AMERICAN PHAMTOM PLANES REACH ISRAEL WITH THEIR PILOTS"; PRO-CAIRO AL-YOUM HEADLINES: "OFFICIALLY: AMERICAN MILITARY GROUP WITH (SMART' BOMBS FOR ISRAEL... AND 2,200 MIL DOLLARS"; (B) DETAILS OF BANK OF AMERICA SHOUTOUT; (C) WAR NEWS.
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2. EDITORIAL COMMENT CONCENTRATES FOR FIRST TIME ON
ANALYSIS OF US DIPLOMATIC POSITION, STRONG CRITICISM
OF US AID TO ISRAEL, AND DEMANDS FOR USE OF OIL WEAPON
AND OTHER MEASURES AGAINST US.

3. LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC AN-NAHAR COMMENTS THAT
AMERICAN POLICY IS THAT OF A POWERFUL ISRAEL: "POWERFUL
ISRAEL CAN ONLY MEAN, FOR ITS RULERS AND PERHAPS FOR AMERICA,
ISRAEL ABLE TO RECOVER ALL TERRITORIES IT OCCUPIED. IN
PRACTICE, WHAT WOULD RESUMPTION OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION
MEAN? IT CERTAINLY WOULD NOT MEAN MAKING PEACEFUL
SOLUTION, ESPECIALLY ON BASIS OF SOVIET PLAN, POSSIBLE.
IT WOULD MEAN ARABS WOULD BE DEFEATED AND WOULD NEVER BE
IN POSITION TO ACCEPT PEACEFUL SOLUTION IMPOSED ON THEM
BY POWERFUL ISRAEL. NO DOUBT PRES NIXON AND US
SENATORS KNOW THAT EGYPT TWICE DEFEATED COULD UNDER NO
CIRCUMSTANCES BE IMAGINED READY TO ACCEPT ANY SETTLEMENT.
SOVIET UNION ITSELF COULD NOT ACCEPT IMPOSITION OF
SETTLEMENT ON EGYPT WHILE LATTER IN WEAK POSITION.
POLICY OF DETENTE WITH US MAY INCLUDE MUCH STRONGER
CONSIDERATIONS THAN THOSE THAT HAVE APPEARED UP TO
NOW, BUT IT CAN NEVER FORCE PEACE OF VANQUISHED ON ARABS."

4. LEADING INDEPENDENT FRENCH L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, UNDER
HEADING "WHERE ARE AMERICANS GMV?" COMMENTS: "U.S.
POLICY HAS ALWAYS HAD 3 GOALS: (A) REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE
IN MIDEAST; (B) PROTECT AMERICAN OIL INTERESTS; (C) GUARANTEE
ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL. IT WOULD BE STRANGE TO THINK THAT
BY OWN FREELY CONSENTED INITIATIVES WASHINGTON COULD MESS
ALL 3 TARGETS AT ONCE. HAVE AMERICANS NOT LEARNED
THAT IN MAKING ARABS LOSE FACE THEY WOULD MAKE ISRAEL LOSE
PEACE? THAT ALL CONCESSIONS IN WORLD ON HEELS OF
MILITARY DEFEAT WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT AND THAT ARAB REGIMES
WOULD PUT THEMSELVES TO PREPARING NEW WAR? CONSEQUENCES
ON POLITICAL SCENE WOULD BE MORE SERIOUS THAN DEFEAT.
TODAY'S POSITION OF ARAB GOVTS IS REALLY THE DISPARING
CRY OF BOURGEOIS AND PETTY BOURGEOIS REGIMES
TRYING TO AVOID 'POINT OF NO RETURN', TO USE SADAT'S
WORDS. THERE WILL BE NO ARAB SURRENDER, EVEN IF ISRAELIS
FIND THEMSELVES AT GATES OF CAIRO AND DAMASCUS."
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